

AMENDING SECTION 7 OF AN ACT ENTITLED "AN ACT MAKING  
APPROPRIATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE  
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE FISCAL  
YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1903, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,"  
APPROVED JULY 1, 1902

JULY 19, 1951.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State  
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. HARRIS, from the Committee on the District of Columbia,  
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 261]

The Committee on the District of Columbia, to whom was referred the bill (S. 261) to amend section 7 of an act entitled "An act making appropriations to provide for the expenses of the government of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903, and for other purposes," approved July 1, 1902, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The needs for this legislation are explained in the Commissioners' letter of June 20, 1950, to Hon. Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House, which is made a part of this report:

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,  
Washington, D. C.

Hon. SAM RAYBURN,  
Speaker, United States House of Representatives,  
Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. RAYBURN: The Commissioners of the District of Columbia have the honor to submit to you herewith draft of a proposed bill to amend section 7 of an act entitled "An act making appropriations to provide for the expenses of the government of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903, and for other purposes," approved July 1, 1902.

The purpose of section 1 of the proposed legislation is to extend the time within which licenses shall be issued under subparagraphs (c) and (d) of paragraph 31 of the License Act. Under the present law licenses may be issued on or after March 15 of each year for vehicles licensed under these subparagraphs. There are approximately 8,000 to 9,000 licenses issued each year. The 2 weeks' period now permitted under the statute for the issuance of such licenses taxes facilities and personnel and causes some inconvenience to applicants.

Furthermore, beginning March 1 of each year the Department of Vehicles and Traffic permits owners who are changing equipment or motors, which ordinarily requires transfer of tags, and owners purchasing licenses for new equipment, to obtain new tags. However, such licensees who are renewing licenses must wait under the present law until March 15, after the purchase of the licenses provided for under subparagraphs (c) and (d), to obtain new registration tags. The public vehicle inspection period usually starts about the middle of February, and to permit the issuance of licenses beginning March 1 would greatly assist in handling the volume of work. If licenses could be issued under subparagraphs (c) and (d) of paragraph 31 of the act, beginning March 1, it would eliminate the necessity of policing operators who had been permitted to obtain new registration tags during the period from March 1 to March 15 to see that they also comply with the license statute by April 1.

The licenses provided for under subparagraph (i) of paragraph 31 of the act, date from July 1 in each year. Section 2 of the proposed legislation would change the license date to begin April 1 in each year to correspond with other public-vehicle licenses and would also permit the issuance beginning March 1. To change the license date to begin April 1 instead of July 1 would make the registration date and the license date correspond. This would be a convenience to licensees, the Department of Vehicles and Traffic, and the Public Utilities Commission which approves applications for registration tags for public vehicles for hire.

The proposed legislation contains no changes in requirements of existing law except as to the period in which licenses may be issued and the change in the license year of those vehicles licensed under subparagraph (i) from July 1 to April 1. The bill as drafted provides for proration of license fees for the new license year for that part of the license year covered by licenses issued under existing law.

The proposed draft was submitted to the Bureau of the Budget and returned to the Commissioners with the advice that there is no objection on the part of that office to the presentation of the bill to Congress.

Respectfully,

JOHN RUSSELL YOUNG,  
*President, Board of Commissioners.*

#### CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 2a of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as introduced, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

#### § 47-2331 [20: 1731]. *Routed passenger vehicles, vehicles for hire—Hackers' licenses—Identification tags on vehicles*

(a) Every passenger vehicle for hire licensed under this section shall be considered a public vehicle.

(b) Any person, partnership, association, trust, or corporation operating or proposing to operate any vehicle or vehicles not confined to rails or tracks for the transportation of passengers for hire over all or any portion of any defined route or routes in the District of Columbia, except when such vehicle or vehicles are to be operated solely for sight-seeing purposes, shall, on or before the 1st day of October in each year, or before commencing such operation, submit to the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia, in triplicate, an application for license, stating therein the name of such person, partnership, association, trust, or corporation, the number and kind of each type of vehicle to be used in such operation, the schedule or schedules and the total number of vehicle-miles to be operated with such vehicles within the District of Columbia during the twelve month period beginning with the 1st day of November in the same year. The Public Utilities Commission shall thereupon verify and approve, or return to the applicant for correction and resubmission, each such statement, and when approved, forward one copy thereof to the commissioners of the District of Columbia or their designated agents and return one copy to the applicant. Upon receipt of the approved copy, and prior to the 1st day of November in the same year, or before commencing such operation, each such applicant shall pay to the collector of taxes, in lieu of any other franchise, personal or license tax, in connection with such operation, the sum of eight-tenths of 1 cent for each

vehicle-mile proposed to be operated in the District of Columbia in accordance with the application as approved. Upon presentation of the receipt for such payment, the commissioners of the District of Columbia or their designated agent shall issue a license authorizing the applicant to carry on the operations embodied in the approved application. No increase of operations shall be commenced or continued unless and until an application similar to the original and covering such increase in operation shall have been approved and forwarded in the same manner and the corresponding additional payment made and license issued. No license shall be issued under the terms of paragraph (b) of this section without the approval of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia.

(c) Owners of passenger vehicles for hire having a seating capacity of eight passengers or more, in addition to the driver or operator, other than those licensed to the preceding paragraph, shall pay a license tax of \$100 per annum for each vehicle used. No such vehicle shall be operated unless there shall be conspicuously displayed therein a license issued under the terms of this subparagraph. Licenses issued under this subparagraph shall date from April 1 of each year, but may be issued on or after **[March 15]** *March 1* of such year: *Provided, however*, That all licenses issued for a period prior to April 1, 1940, shall expire on March 31, 1940, and the license fee therefor shall be prorated accordingly.

(d) Owners of passenger vehicles for hire, whether operated from a private establishment or from public space, other than those licensed under the two preceding subparagraphs and under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, shall pay a license tax of \$25 per annum for each such vehicle used in the conduct of their business. Stands for such vehicles upon public space, adjacent to hotels or otherwise, may be established in the manner provided in section 6 (e) of the Act entitled "An Act to amend the Acts approved March 3, 1925, and July 3, 1926, known as the District of Columbia Traffic Acts, and so forth". The Public Utilities Commission is hereby authorized to make and enforce all such reasonable and usual police regulations as it may deem necessary for the proper conduct, control, and regulation of all vehicles described in this and the preceding subparagraphs and paragraph 33 hereof. Licenses issued under this subparagraph shall date from April 1 of each year, but may be issued on or after **[March 15]** *March 1* of such year: *Provided, however*, That all licenses issued for a period prior to April 1, 1940, shall expire on March 31, 1940, and the license fee therefor shall be prorated accordingly.

(e) No person shall engage in driving or operating any vehicle licensed under the terms of paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section without having procured from the commissioners of the District of Columbia or their designated agent a license and a badge numbered to correspond with the number of said license, neither of which shall be issued except upon evidence satisfactory to the director of motor vehicles under the direction of the commissioners of the District of Columbia that the applicant is a person of good moral character and is qualified to operate such vehicle, and upon payment of an annual license fee of \$5. Such license shall be displayed within the vehicle and such badge prominently worn upon the driver's breast at all times while engaged in driving any vehicle licensed under the terms of paragraphs (c) and (d). Application for such license shall be made in such form as shall be prescribed to the commissioners of the District of Columbia or their designated agent. Each annual license issued under the provisions of this paragraph shall be numbered, and there shall be kept in the Department of Vehicles and Traffic a record containing the name of each person so licensed, his annual license number, and all matters affecting his qualifications to be licensed hereunder. No license issued under the provisions of this paragraph shall be assigned or transferred.

(f) All vehicles licensed under this section shall bear such identification tags as the commissioners of the District of Columbia may from time to time direct; and nothing herein contained shall exempt such vehicles from compliance with the traffic and motor-vehicle regulations of the District of Columbia, nor shall it deprive the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia from assuming control over such vehicles, under such regulations as the Public Utilities Commission may from time to time adopt and promulgate: *Provided*, That nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed so as to diminish the powers conferred on the commissioners of the District of Columbia under the provisions of sections 40-301 to 40-303, 40-601 to 40-605, 40-609 to 40-611, and 40-613 to 40-615, nor to diminish the powers conferred on the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia by said sections and by sections 40-1001 to 40-1007 creating the Public Utilities Commission.

(g) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require the procuring of a license, or the payment of a tax, with respect to a vehicle operated for sightseeing purposes, if the only passengers transported in such sightseeing operations are school children, their teachers, or escorts, and transported to the District of Columbia from the State in which their school is located, in such vehicle, and if a certificate for each such vehicle is obtained from the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. Application for such certificate shall be made to the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia stating the name of the school, the date or dates on which such operations would be conducted, and sufficient information for identification of the vehicle to be so engaged. The said Commission shall furnish to such school a certificate for each such vehicle upon which there shall be entered the name of the school, the date or dates on which such vehicle may be operated, and identification of the vehicle for which the said certificate is granted. Such certificate shall be conspicuously displayed in or on said vehicle when operated in the District of Columbia.

(h) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require the procuring of a license, or the payment of a tax, with respect to a vehicle operated for sightseeing purposes, if such sightseeing operations are only occasional and the only passengers transported in such sightseeing operations are persons transported to the District of Columbia from a point or points outside of said District, in such vehicle, and if a certificate for such operation is obtained from the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. Application for such certificate shall be made to the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia, stating the date or dates on which occasional sightseeing operations would be conducted and the number of vehicles to be operated. The said Commission shall furnish such applicant a certificate for each such vehicle upon which shall be entered the date or dates such operations may be conducted without a license from the District of Columbia: *Provided*, That such certificates shall not be issued for such occasional sightseeing operations under the same ownership, management, control, or arrangement for a greater number of days than authorized in this paragraph. The certificate herein authorized shall be conspicuously displayed in each such vehicle when operated in the District of Columbia. The operation in the District of Columbia by the same ownership, management, control, or arrangement of any such vehicle or vehicles in sightseeing operations shall not be construed to be occasional if such ownership, management, control, or arrangement shall operate any such vehicle or vehicles for sightseeing purposes in the District of Columbia for more than fifteen calendar days in any license year. Motor vehicles transporting school children for sightseeing purposes as exempted under the preceding paragraph (g) shall not be included in such computation of operations. Sightseeing operations shall not be construed to include transportation to or from the hotel or terminal en route into or out of said District.

(i) Owners of ambulances for hire and owners of passenger vehicles which, when used for hire, are used exclusively for funeral purposes shall pay a license tax of \$25 per annum for each such vehicle used in the conduct of their business. Licenses ~~issued~~ under this paragraph shall date from ~~July 1~~ April 1 in each year but may be issued on or after March 1 ~~in~~ of each year~~;~~: *Provided, however, That licenses issued under this subparagraph for the license period expiring on June 30 of any year shall remain valid until such expiration date, and the holders of such licenses, if otherwise qualified, shall be entitled to have issued to them upon expiration of such licenses new licenses for the license year beginning April 1 to be prorated for the remainder of the license year.*

(j) No person shall engage in driving or operating any vehicle licensed under the terms of paragraph (i) without having procured from the Commissioners of the District of Columbia or their designated agent a license which shall only be issued upon evidence satisfactory to the Director of Motor Vehicles, under the direction of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, that the applicant is a person of good moral character and is qualified to operate such vehicle, and upon payment of an annual license fee of \$5. Such license shall be carried upon the person of the licensee or in the vehicle while engaged in driving such vehicle when such vehicle is being used for hire. Application for such license shall be made in such form as shall be prescribed by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia or their designated agent. Each annual license issued under the provisions of this paragraph shall be numbered, and there shall be kept in the Department of Vehicles and Traffic a record containing the name of each person so licensed, his annual license number and all matters affecting his qualifications to be licensed hereunder. No license issued under the provisions of this paragraph shall be assigned or transferred.